

BA 90

OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE

1773

COCKEYSVILLE

PRIVATE

Old Gunpowder Meeting House is a solid, vernacular style stone structure built in 1773 as the second place of worship by its congregation on this site. The building and cemetery occupied this ground without benefit of a deed until 1815, when Colgate Deye Owings conveyed slightly more than an acre to trustees Mordecai Price, John Price, and Thomas Scott. The congregation abandoned this house as their regular meeting place early in its life, finding that most of them lived farther north. A new house was completed at Priceville in 1821. The cemetery was kept up at the old site and on rare occasions, there were indulged meetings in the original building.

The cemetery contains the graves of many early Baltimore County residents, including several mill owners, Quakers being unusually prominent in the gristmilling industry of the late 18th Century. There is a substantial stone wall around the cemetery and the wall is joined at two places to the meeting house itself.

This building provided segregated areas inside for male and female worshipers and some early benches are still intact. There was plain, in fact Spartan, living space on the second floor to accommodate participants at annual meetings. Henry Chandlee Forman studied this building in 1956 and described it as "the finest example of the persistence of Medieval style into the eighteenth century in Baltimore County." This building has undergone deterioration, and its owners are seeking to sell it to a preservation-minded purchaser.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

SAME

**2 LOCATION**STREET & NUMBER 13,100 Beaver Dam Road (rear of gatehouse)  
(E/S, 1.2 miles SE of Shawan Road)

CITY, TOWN

Cockeysville

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore County

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☐ YES RESTRICTED☐ YES UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER (vacant)**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Clark F. and Ann S. MacKenzie

Telephone #: 821-8585

STREET &amp; NUMBER

2324 W. Joppa Road, Suite 530

CITY, TOWN

Lutherville

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21093

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Courts Building

Liber #: EHK JR. 5589

Folio #: 253

STREET &amp; NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**TITLE Baltimore County Landmarks Preservation Commission  
Preliminary Landmarks List

DATE

June 1980

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☒ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of Planning and Zoning, 401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

**7 DESCRIPTION**24-00  
OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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The Old Gunpowder Meeting House is a two-story plus attic stone structure with a gable roof and two corner chimneys. Dimensions are twenty by forty. The entrance for worshippers was by twin front doors that led into men's and women's seating areas inside. There were originally sliding partitions to make two separate meeting rooms if desired. Style is very plain, or vernacular. Overall plan is perfectly rectangular, with no projections of any kind. The roof ends flush with the end walls and the end rafters are exposed.

The cemetery wall joins onto the wall of the meeting house at two points. Some time before 1956, Henry Chandlee Forman reported that the brown fieldstone walls had "been crudely repointed." That crude workmanship is still evident in 1981. Forman called the structure an example of "hangover" of the Medieval building style of England that persisted in the colonies.

A winding staircase led to rooms on the second floor where guests were lodged at the yearly meetings. Doors are made of board and batten. Windows were sash type, six-over-six lights or panes in each. Original shutters were solid wood, in a paneled design. There were two fireplaces inside, one was built with an arch over the hearth. Forman also noted that the summer beams and supporting posts inside

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued)

ERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1773

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

## SUMMARY

Old Gunpowder Meeting House is a solid, vernacular style stone structure built in 1773 as the second place of worship by its congregation on this site. The building and cemetery occupied this ground without benefit of a deed until 1815, when Colgate Deye Owings conveyed slightly more than an acre to trustees Mordecai Price, John Price, and Thomas Scott. The congregation abandoned this house as their regular meeting place early in its life, finding that most of them lived farther north. A new house was completed at Priceville in 1821. The cemetery was kept up at the old site and on rare occasions, there were indulged meetings in the original building.

The cemetery contains the graves of many early Baltimore County residents, including several mill owners, Quakers being unusually prominent in the gristmilling industry of the late 18th Century. There is a substantial stone wall around the cemetery and the wall is joined at two places to the meeting house itself.

This building provided segregated areas inside for male

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued)

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING  
HOUSEHenry Chandlee Forman, Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens  
(New York, 1956), pp. 171-175.Phoebe R. Jacobsen, Quaker Records in Maryland (Annapolis, 1966),  
pp. 25-26.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.1**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

S1E	36.51 ft.	NO° 21'W	110.81 ft.
S71° 37' 20"W	239.42 ft. to Beaver Dam Road	S83° 36"W	203. ft.
S59° 30"E	26. ft. along Beaver Dam Road	(Except portion reserved by C. D. Owings, Deeds WG 134:74)	
N71° 37' 20"E	215.99 ft.		
S1E	48.76 ft.		
N89E	199.90 ft.		

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE NONE

COUNTY NONE

STATE

NONE

COUNTY

NONE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

John W. McGrain, Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning and Zoning, Baltimore County

DATE

April 23, 1981

STREET &amp; NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

TELEPHONE

494-3495

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

the meeting room were replacements, but nonetheless copies of the original, Medieval style timbers notched with lambs' tongues and chamfering.

Forman stated that it was "the finest example of the persistence of Medieval style into the eighteenth century in Baltimore County, and one of the half dozen best examples in the State." (1)

This building has deteriorated in spite of several efforts to keep out vandals. Deteriorated cedar shake shingles, many missing, still serve as roofing material. In 1981, a set of plain wooden steps was installed on the north facade to give access to potential buyers. Old pews were still inside in April 1981, but scattered in disarray. Most windows were blocked with plywood panels.

NOTES:

1. Henry Chandlee Forman, Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens, pp. 171, 172, 173, 174.

and female worshipers and some early benches are still intact. There was plain, in fact Spartan, living space on the second floor to accommodate participants at annual meetings. Henry Chandlee Forman studied this building in 1956 and described it as "the finest example of the persistence of Medieval style into the eighteenth century in Baltimore County." This building has undergone deterioration, and its owners are seeking to sell it to a preservation-minded purchaser.

Old Gunpowder Friends Meeting House is the second place of worship on this site. Phoebe R. Jacobsen of the Hall of Records cites a tradition that there was a meeting organized on Western Run as early as 1675, but states that there are no records to prove the existence of this meeting until 1739, when Gunpowder Meeting and Patapsco Meetings were allowed to become independent of their parent body, the Monthly Meeting at the Clifts. (1)

Henry Chandlee Forman cites the somewhat romantic story that the meeting near Cockeysville "came about by the worship of one person seated on a log. He was joined by other worshippers." (2)

Forman states that a log meeting house was built soon after the establishment of the group. The land was held in some casual or informal manner, because it was not until 1815 that a deed was recorded certifying the Meeting as owner of the lot and graveyard. Colgate Deye Owings conveyed something more than an acre to trustees Mordecai Price, John Price, and Thomas Scott. (3)

Forman gives 1773 as the date of constructing the present building; it was covered by cedar shingles in the beginning, but they were later lost in a fire of 1886. (4) The body was incorporated in 1803. (5)

In 1819, the members of the Meeting concluded that most of them lived well beyond convenient traveling distance from the Meeting, as they were clustered in the Belfast and Western Run valleys. A committee was appointed to find a new site and to raise the funds and, thus, the "New Gunpowder Meeting House" (MHT Site No. BA 80) was built on Priceville Road in 1821. (6) The old place fell into disuse, although Mrs. Jacobsen reports that



an "Indulged Meeting" was held at Old Gunpowder in 1851. (7)  
The cemetery continued in use. Title to an access road was acquired in 1870 from John F. Shipley and wife. (8)

Forman's photos of 1939 show the structure in reasonably good condition, but his text, written in 1956, or before, reports the sad condition that the property had fallen into. Forman noted that entire sash windows were deteriorated and there were "animals walking in and out the doorways as well." He added the warning, "When the roof goes, the building goes." (9)

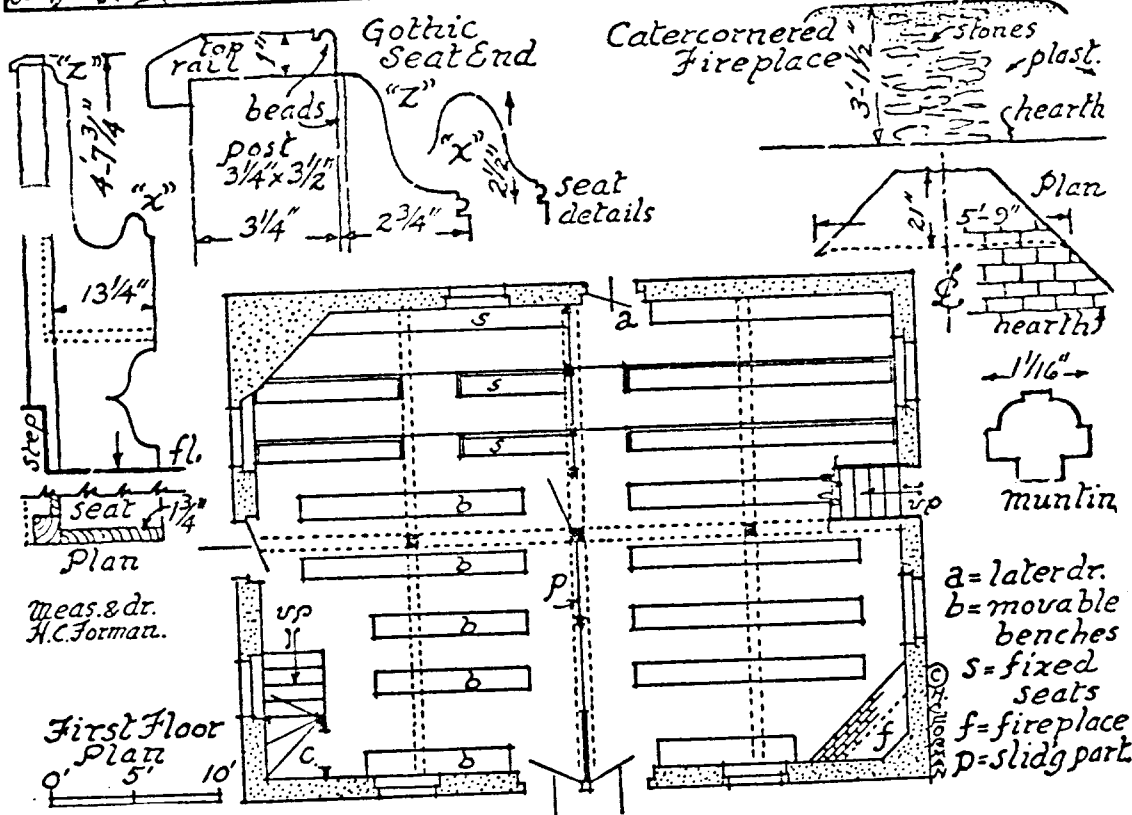
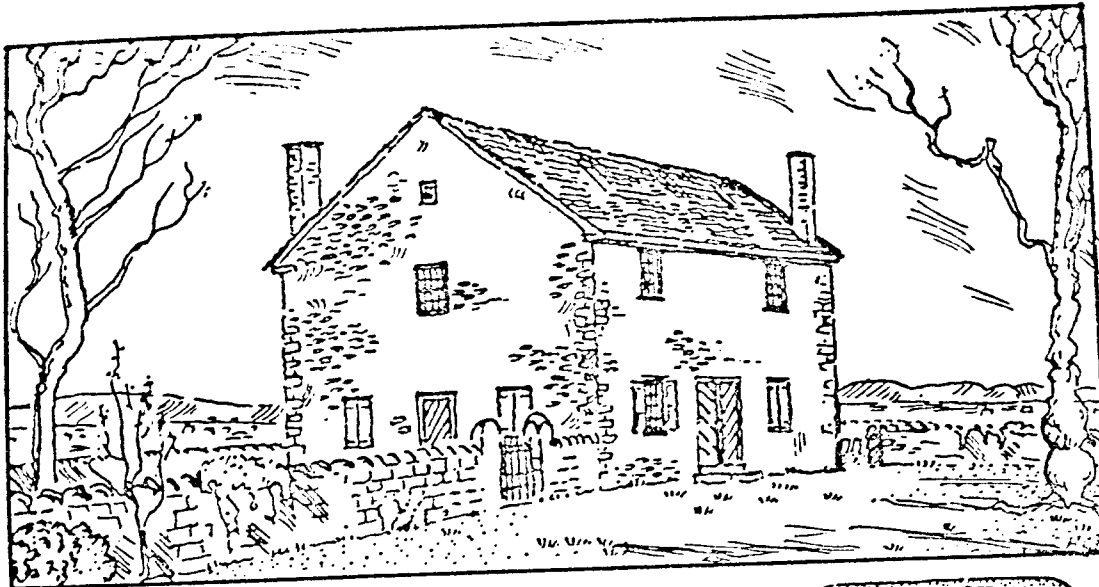
In 1972, Clark F. MacKenzie purchased the Meeting House and received title to the structure, but not to all of the surrounding cemetery. (10) He had the caretaker's house (MHT Site No. BA 968) moved out to the road frontage to block the cemetery entrance to vandals. However, the problem of vandalism (apparently unknown in 1939 when Forman's photos were taken) continues in spite of boarding up the structure.

At the time of this report, the property is on the real estate market to persons willing to restore or maintain the structure. In 1980, Mr. McKenzie's staff reported to the secretary of the Landmarks Preservation Commission that they were trying to acquire an adjoining half acre owned by the Aged German People's Home (unoccupied space being held in a trust) to acquire a drain-field that would allow conversion of the Meeting House to a dwelling. (11) Both Mr. MacKenzie and the trustees of Gunpowder Monthly Meeting made vain attempts to board up the structure against intrusion over recent years.

NOTES:

1. Phoebe R. Jacobsen, Quaker Records in Maryland (Annapolis, 1966), p. 25.
2. Henry Chandlee Forman, Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens (New York, 1956), p. 172.
3. Baltimore City Deeds, WG 134:74.
4. Forman, Tidewater Architecture, p. 172.
5. Old Baltimore City Charter Book, f. 66. Also, Baltimore City Deeds WG 45:77 (December 18, 1803).
6. William C. Gardner, "Gunpowder Friends Meeting House," informational sheet, one page.
7. Jacobsen, Quaker Records, p. 25.
8. Baltimore County Deeds, EHA 68:426.
9. Forman, Tidewater Architecture, pp. 171, 172, 188, 189.
10. Baltimore County Deeds, EJK JR. 5589:253.
11. Meeting, April 25, 1980, William B. Watkins of MacKenzie and Associates, Inc., with John McGrain, Office of Planning and Zoning, Towson.

FLOOR PLAN  
 OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE  
 BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND  
 BA-90



Well on the way to ruin is OLD GUNPOWDER FRIENDS' MEETING (1773), here shown by the writer by floor plan, details, and perspective. Note the two chambers each divided by summer beams into four equal compartments.

from: H.C. Forman, Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens. Bonanza Books: New York, 1956, p. 173.

LIST OF COLOR SLIDES - OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE, BA-90

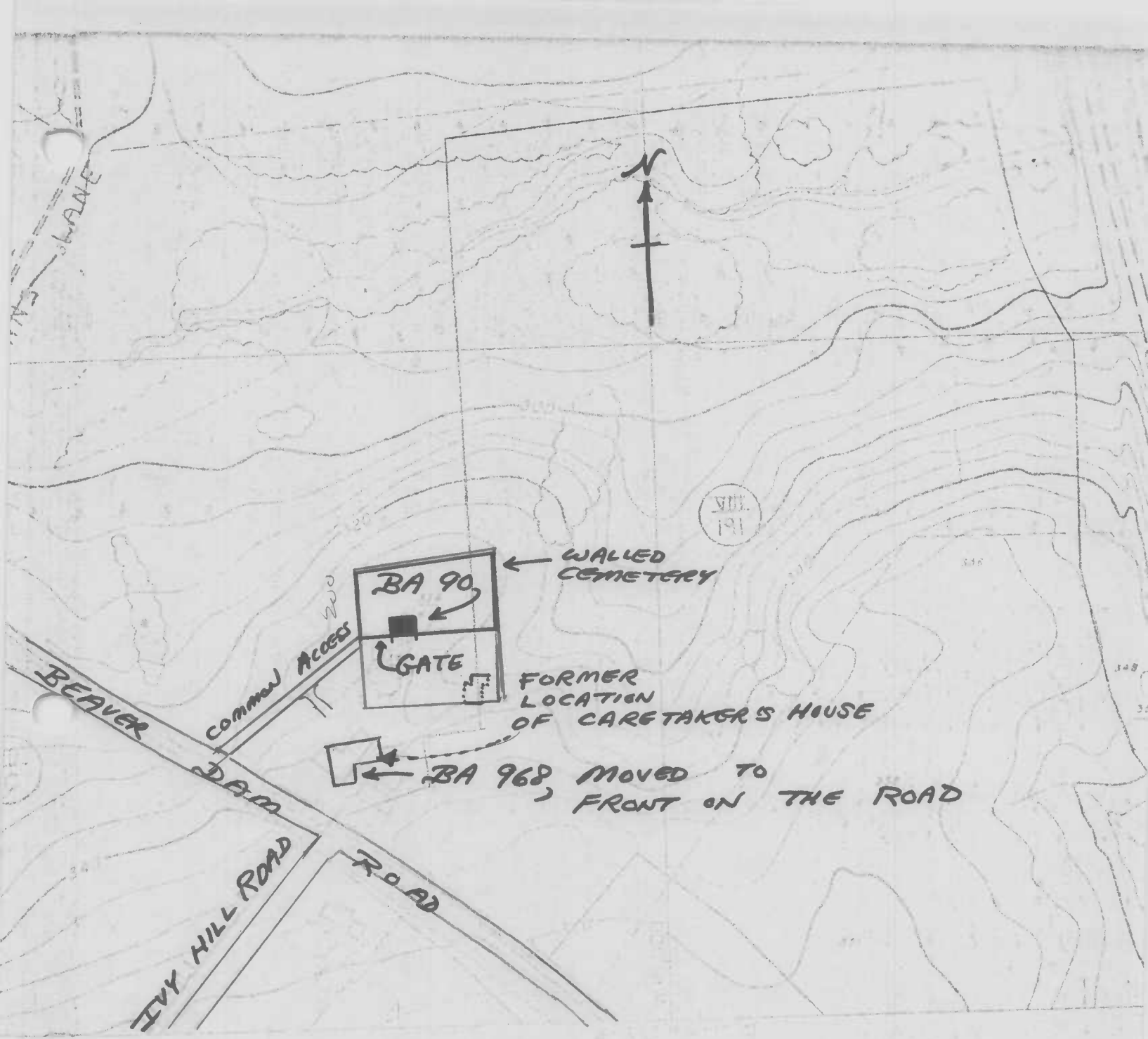
1. Old Gunpowder Meeting House, south facade from south
2. " " " " , east and north facades from NE
3. " " " " , west and north from NW
4. " " " " , west end and NW corner from NW

The above slides were taken by John McGrain on April 22, 1981 in late afternoon lighting.

5. Old Gunpowder Meeting House, south and east facades from SE
6. " " " " , east gable end
7. " " " " , east gable end and north facade
8. " " " " , interior, corner fireplace (SE corner)
9. " " " " , interior, typical chamfered post and panel
10. " " " " , interior, typical chamfered post and beams
11. " " " " , interior, stairs in SW corner
12. " " " " , interior, typical bench

Slides 5 through 7 were taken by John McGrain, May 5, 1981 in early morning light. Interior shots by electronic flash.

JWM:vh  
May 21, 1981



PHOTOGRAMMETRIC MAP OF

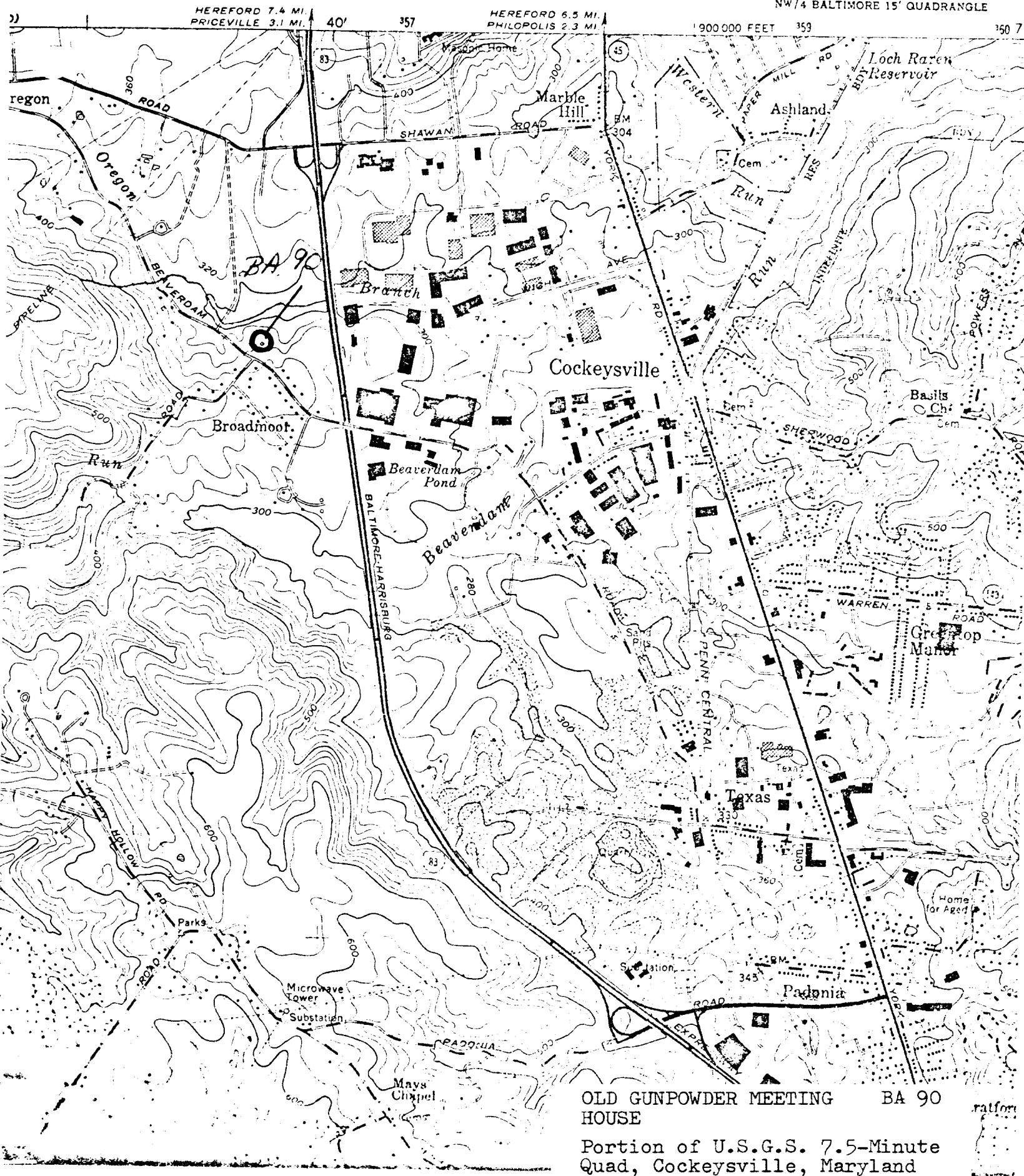
BALTIMORE COUNTY METROPOLITAN

OLD QUAKER MEETING HOUSE BA-90  
PROPERTY PLAT

Scale: 1 INCH = 200 FEET  
B.C. Sheet NW 18-C

NW  
18-C

COCKEYSVILLE QUADRANGLE  
 MARYLAND—BALTIMORE CO.  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
 NW/4 BALTIMORE 15' QUADRANGLE



OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE BA 90

Portion of U.S.G.S. 7.5-Minute Quad, Cockeysville, Maryland

Maryland  
Baltimore County  
District VIII  
Beaver Dam Road

BA-90  
Quaker Meeting House

0300905<sup>2</sup>~~108~~

1737

Remodeled in 1773 and 1886.

(First HABS Report)  
E. Frances Offutt  
HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE  
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July 29, 1965





OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE BA-90  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain April 22 1981  
Neg located at MHT  
South facade from south  
Photo 1 of 11



OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE BA-90  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain April 22 1981  
Neg. located at MHT  
South facade from SW and west end  
Photo 2 of 11



OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE BA-90  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain May 5 1981  
Neg. located at MHT  
South facade & east end  
Photo 3 of 11



OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE      BA-90  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain      May 5 1981  
Neg. located at MHT  
East end from east; also cemetery  
Photo 4 of 11





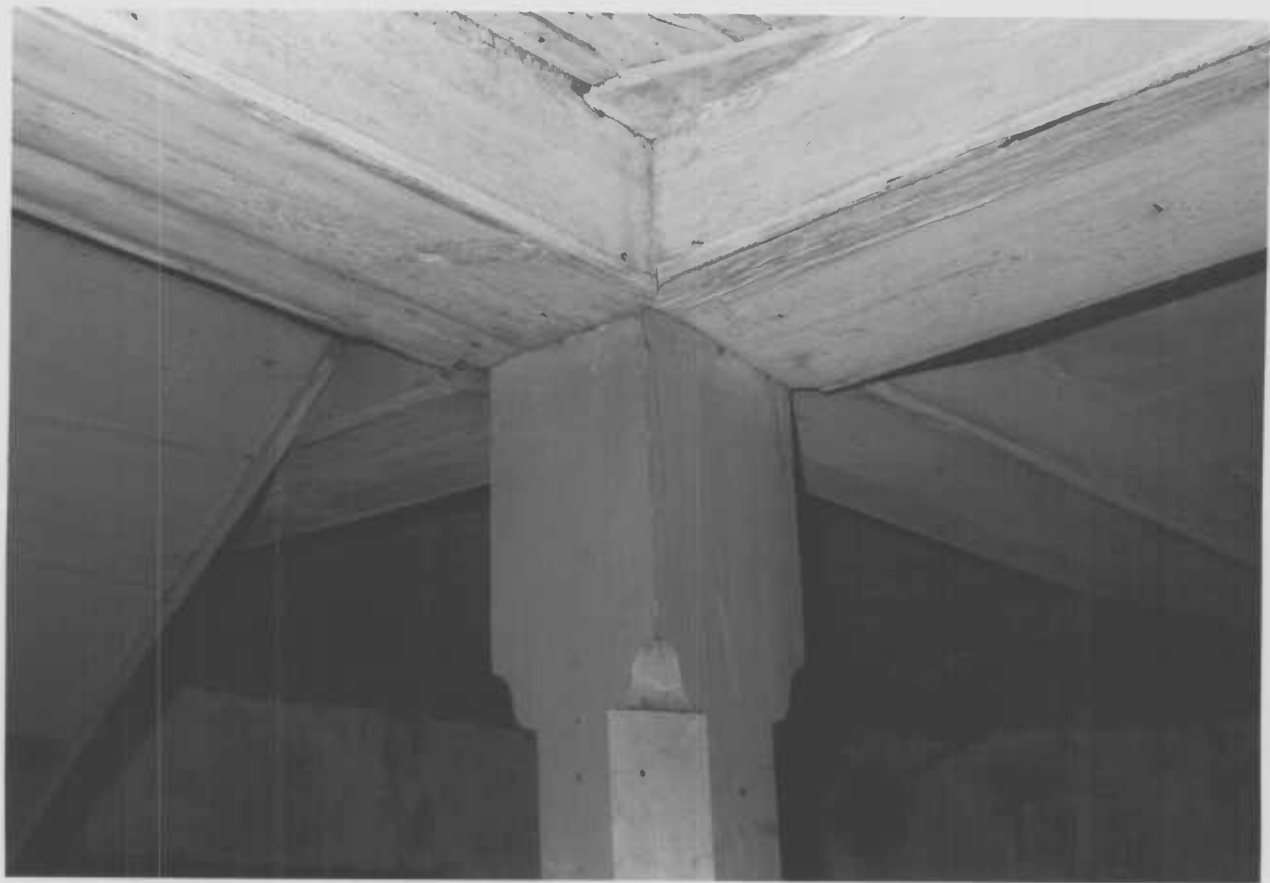
OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE    BA-90  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain    May 5 1981  
Neg. located at MHT  
East end & north facade from NE  
Photo 5 of 11



OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE      BA-90  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain      May 5 1981  
Neg. located at MHT  
Interior, corner fireplace, SE corner  
Photo 6 of 11



OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE      BA-90  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain      May 5 1981  
Neg. located at MHT  
Interior, typical chamfered post &  
    panel  
Photo 7 of 11



OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE      BA-90  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain      May 5 1981  
Neg. located at MHT  
Interior, chamfered post and beams  
Photo 8 of 11





OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE      BA-90  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain      May 5 1981  
Neg. located at MHT  
Interior, laths in first story ceiling  
Photo 9 of 11



OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE    BA-90  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain    May 5 1981  
Neg. located at MHT  
Interior, stairs in SW corner  
Photo 10 of 11



OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain May 5 1981  
Neg. located at MHT  
Interior, typical bench  
Photo 11 of 11

BA-90